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in investigation, nor do I usually attach much importance to them; but in this instance, where, without doing any violence to the structure of words, we find one language interpreting another so aptly, according to the very physical features and productions of a country, we are bound to attach some value to them, were it only as corroborative evidence.

The topography of southern Spain is intensely Gaedhelic. Many of its rivers, streams, lakes, hills, and other physical features, are called by names which can only be interpreted by that language; while the peasantry themselves, in their character, customs, and superstitions, are a similar race to our own. In addition, there is corroborative evidence in the strong sympathies existing, from time immemorial, between the people of the south and west of Ireland and the Spaniards, in the constant intercourse from the most ancient times continued down to late mediæval times; and in the ethnological affinities between the people of various parts of the west and south-west coast of Ireland and those of Spain; not of the Biscayans or Catalans, who were of the Gothic race, but of the Andalucians, who were of the Eastern type.

I have before stated that it was not my intention to broach any theory on this important subject; my desire has been rather to indicate a line of investigation that has suggested itself to me from the various considerations I have already adduced. I trust that this much-neglected subject will receive from the members of this Academy that attention to which I believe it is entitled, from its bearing upon an obscure era of our national history.

XXIII.—OBSERVATIONS ON MR. BRASH'S PAPER "ON THE OGHAM CHAMBER OF DRUMLOHAN." By the Right Rev. CHARLES GRAVES, D.D., Lord Bishop of Limerick.

[Made November 30, 1867.]

THE Bishop of Limerick, in moving that Mr. Brash's paper be referred to the Council for publication, observed that the thanks of the Academy were due to Mr. Brash for his detailed description of the Drumlohan cave, and the Ogham monuments contained in it. To such an acknowledgment Mr. Brash would not be disentitled if it should hereafter appear that he had fallen into some errors in his copying and deciphering of the inscriptions. In ordinary cases, Oghams, being of a great antiquity, have been more or less defaced by the action of the weather, if not in other ways; but special difficulties stand in the way of copying inscriptions on monuments built, like those described by Mr. Brash, into the walls and roof of an underground gallery, without any attempt being made to leave the inscribed edges visible. The Bishop stated that his own drawings of the Ogham inscriptions in the cave at Dunloe had undergone some important corrections on the occasion of a second visit to the place. Comparisons of the names appearing in them

with others found elsewhere had suggested corrections which a further examination proved to be necessary. In fact, the intelligence of the antiquary, having a general notion of what he may expect to find in an inscription, gives no small help to his senses of sight and touch in reading it.

Looking for the first time at the inscriptions now laid before the Academy, the Bishop would hazard one or two conjectures. It appeared to him probable that the inscription on the south side pillar, No. 1 (see p. 110), ended with the name *RITTIAS*, or *RETTIAS*, not *ROTTAIS*. The former of these frequently occurs on Ogham monuments existing in Kerry. He also suggested that the inscription read by Mr. Brash as *IGU MAQI DAG* (Roofing Slab, No. 8, p. 109) may prove to be *LUGU MAQI DEG*, the last three letters being the commencement of the name *DEGO*, occurring in the inscription on the north side pillar No. 4 (see p. 112). This name is better known to us in the nominative form, *DICHU*, which we meet in the life of St. Patrick.

Without attempting to offer an extempore criticism on the readings and translations of the inscriptions proposed by Mr. Brash, he observed that he thought that in the inscription on the roofing slab No. 1 (see p. 106), he recognizes a name *NOCATI*, or *NOGATI*, which he had seen elsewhere. He also directed attention to the element *CUNA* in the inscription on the roofing slab No. 7 (see p. 108), which, in Ogham proper names, represents the *CON* of ordinary spelling. According to this view, the first word in the inscription would be the genitive case of *CONLAEDH*, or *CONLAECH*.

The Bishop reminded the Academy that the almost universal occurrence of the word *MAQI* in the Ogham inscriptions, and the fact that these inscriptions consisted in general merely of names and patronymics, had been announced by him in his first communication on this subject to the Academy.

He also observed that the case of Drumlohan, like that of Dunloe, near Killarney, is a *ripit*, one of those places in which we may expect to find Ogham monuments. The Brehon Laws, as quoted by him in a former communication, refer to Oghams preserved in *Firts* as evidences of the ownership of land; doubtless, because they exhibited the names of persons who had long before lived upon it. Some of the Ogham monuments entombed in caves are so much weather-worn, that they must have stood exposed to the air for ages before they were built into the places where they have been discovered.

The Bishop declined to discuss the theory proposed by Mr. Brash as to the persons who introduced and used the Ogham character in this country. At the same time he intimated his belief that the Ogham does not represent the language, or the alphabet of a colony which migrated into Ireland in such remote times as Mr. Brash seems to point to. But, whatever be the value of these speculations—and their interest cannot be denied—the Bishop declared his conviction that the deciphering of the inscriptions will give us materials from which we

shall be able to make the safest inferences. The difficulty of effecting their interpretations does not arise so much, according to his view, from their remote antiquity, or our imperfect acquaintance with the language in which they are expressed, as from the circumstances that they were originally intended, like the Ogham character itself, to be cryptic—legible only by the initiated. And this accounts for that disinclination shown by Irish scholars to undertake the deciphering of them. They are an exercise of something more than ordinary philological skill.

The Bishop concluded by expressing a hope that he would be able before long to lay before the Academy a communication illustrating these views.

XXIV.—FURTHER NOTES ON MUSCULAR ANOMALIES IN HUMAN ANATOMY, AND THEIR BEARING UPON HOMOTYPICAL MYOLOGY. By ALEXANDER MACALISTER, L.K.Q.C.P., L.R.C.S.; Surgeon to the Adelaide Hospital; Demonstrator of Anatomy, Royal College of Surgeons; and one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Royal Geological Society of Ireland.

[Read December 9, 1867.]

ON a former occasion I laid before the Royal Irish Academy a catalogue of the principal variations which I had noticed in Human Myology during the several preceding Sessions in the dissecting-room of the Royal College of Surgeons. Through the past winter of 1866-7, I have added to the list many irregularities of note, which appear to me to be well worthy of record. I had not the opportunity of examining each subject which came into the Anatomy Hall for dissection; but of those whose examinations I have directly superintended I have preserved notes of sixty cases, not one of which failed to display some deviation from the arrangement usually called normal, and in some these departures from type were gregarious to a singular extent.

The observation of anomalous muscles forms one of the most interesting departments of Teratology, and is interesting in a comparative point of view, as showing, firstly, the relation between the muscles of man and those of other vertebrate animals; and, secondly, as illustrating and indicating the correct homotypy of muscles in different regions of the same body. To the second of these subjects I would wish to call attention in the present paper. The teachings of individual anomalies must always be received with caution, for Teratology, if not corrected by Embryology, is at the best but an uncertain guide. It has, however, one great advantage, namely—that of indicating special lines of study to be followed up in other branches.

The general conditions which I have found to exist with regard to the occurrence of anomalies seem to be the following:—First, with regard to their frequency in different regions, I have found them to be most numerous in the forearm; secondly, in the face; thirdly, in the foot; fourthly, in the back; fifthly, in the neck; sixthly, in the